

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13th, 2019

The Honorable Kenneth I. Juster
United States Ambassador to India
U.S. Embassy New Delhi
Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi – 110021
INDIA

The Honorable Paul W. Jones
Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
U.S. Embassy Islamabad
Diplomatic Enclave Ramna 5
Islamabad
PAKISTAN

Dear Ambassadors Juster and Jones,

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. It has now been nearly more than a month since the Indian government shut off communications to, from, and within Kashmir. This is a deeply ominous sign that is incompatible with both democratic and human rights norms. Coupled with the enforced curfew, it represents an unacceptable restriction on the freedoms of expression, assembly, and movement.

Several of our offices have heard from several Kashmiri-Americans who have, like Kashmiris around the globe, been unable to reach their family members and loved ones within Jammu and Kashmir. Although the reporting of what is happening inside Kashmir has necessarily been piecemeal and incomplete because of the communication shutdown, the reports we are all receiving are harrowing. These include allegations of forced disappearances, mass detentions, rape and sexual assault, and the targeted detention of political, economic, and social leaders.

Prominent international human rights NGOs – including Amnesty International¹, Human Rights Watch², the Committee to Protect Journalists³ – have issued alerts about the ongoing crisis in Kashmir. We are also deeply concerned that Genocide Watch has issued a genocide alert⁴ for Kashmir. They have identified seven genocide “risk factors” currently apply to the situation there, and that their Ten Stages are all “far advanced.”

As you both know very well, there is also the risk that the relationship between India and Pakistan will continue to devolve as a result of this crisis. This presents tremendous danger to global peace and a clear national security risk for the United States. Pakistan and India are both

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/08/kashmir-un-security-council-must-uphold-peace-and-security/>

² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/08/19/india-ensure-rights-protections-kashmir>

³ <https://cpj.org/2019/08/two-journalists-detained-jammu-kashmir-india.php>

⁴ <http://www.genocidewatch.com/single-post/2019/08/15/Genocide-Alert-for-Kashmir-India>

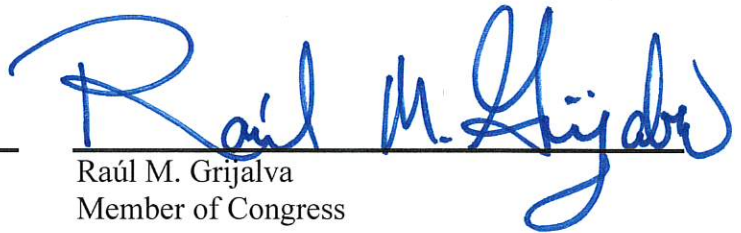
valued allies, crucial to our interests in the region, including the Afghanistan peace process. It is of the utmost importance that we leverage our relationships with their governments to deescalate the situation.

We urge both of you to do everything in your power to:

1. Facilitate connections between Kashmiri-Americans and their family members in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Insist that the Indian government immediately restore communications in Jammu and Kashmir and allow press to access the region.
3. Strongly urge Indian authorities to release the people they have arbitrarily detained.
4. Provide assistance with documentation on allegations of human rights abuses in both Indian- and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir and urge the Indian and Pakistani governments to allow independent, impartial investigations.
5. Deescalate the tensions between India and Pakistan
6. Emphasize the centrality of Kashmiri voices in determining the future of Jammu and Kashmir.



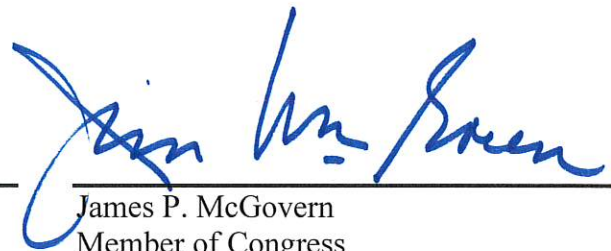
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Donald S. Beyer Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress